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March 28, 2016

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Senate Ed, Higher Ed committees to discuss graduation requirements, counseling

El Paso – Tomorrow the Senate Education and Higher Education committees will meet jointly discuss two critical components of public education: Teacher preparation, recruitment and retention, and implementation of H.B. 5, which dramatically changed high school graduation requirements and high stakes testing. One crucial component to H.B. 5 is the role of counselors to ensure students receive the proper guidance on their high school graduation track. However, there is currently no statutory requirement that schools hire a counselor.

"If Texas is going to close college attainment gaps, the Legislature must ensure students are properly advised and schools have the resources available to implement H.B. 5 correctly," said state Sen. José Rodríguez, a member of the Senate Education Committee, and Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus.

The hearing begins at **9 a.m. CST** in Austin (8 a.m. MST in El Paso), and can be viewed live online at this following link: <http://www.senate.texas.gov/bin/live.php>

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.

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